AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. 1.   (Currently amended) A method for rule-based network management, the method
2. comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
3.   defining and storing a set of rules in one or more Rule-Based Markup Language
4.   ("RBML") documents, wherein the one or more RBML documents include one or
5.   more tags defining one or more rule elements, and wherein the set of rules
6.   includes:
7.   a symptom-event rule that identifies as a symptom a particular event occurring
8.   within the a first network in a plurality of networks; and
9.   a problem-diagnosis rule that defines a problem within the network as a
10.   correlation between one or more symptoms;
11.   collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms, wherein
12.   collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes monitoring the network
13.   for one or more network events identified in the symptom-event rule; and
14.   detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes applying
15.   the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;
16.   receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second network,
17.   separate from the first network; and
18.   distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents storing
19.   the particular rule.

1. 2.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, the method further comprising reviewing the
2. set of rules to identify and resolve a conflict between two or more rules in the set.

1. 3.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, the method further comprising storing the one
2. or more RBML documents in a rule repository, wherein the rule repository includes one or more
3. directories containing RBML documents.

1. 4.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a RBML document storing the
2. problem-diagnosis rule includes:
3.   a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

4   a correlation tag identifying the correlation between one or more symptoms, wherein the

5   one or more symptoms are defined in one or more symptom tags that include one

6   or more pre-defined indicators associated with the one or more symptoms.

1   5.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the step of detecting a problem within

2   the network further comprises the steps of:

3   comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated

4   with a particular symptom to determine whether the particular symptom exists in

5   the symptom-related data;

6   repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in

7   the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;

8   and

9   only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem

10   identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

1   6.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a RBML document storing the

2   symptom-event rule includes:

3   an event tag identifying the particular event occurring on the network; and

4   a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the particular event.

1   7.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the RBML document storing the

2   symptom-event rule further includes:

3   a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

4   a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection

5   command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-

6   related data associated with the particular network device.

1   8.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

2   the set of rules further includes a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective

3   actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and

4   the method further comprises the step of recommending to a user one or more corrective

5   actions defined in a RBML document storing the problem-correction rule.

1   9.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 8, the method further comprising the step of

2   applying to a network device, without user intervention, one or more corrective actions defined

3   in the problem-correction rule.

1   10.   (Canceled)

1   11.   (Currently amended) A method for defining a Rule-Based Markup Language ("RBML")

2   to describe a set of rules for managing a first network among a plurality of networks, the method

3   comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

4   creating one or more RBML documents for storing the set of rules, wherein the one or

5   more RBML documents include one or more tags defining one or more rule

6   elements, and wherein:

7   a RBML document storing a symptom-event rule from the set of rules includes:

8   an event tag identifying a particular event occurring on the network; and

9   a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the

10   particular event; and

11   a RBML document storing a problem-diagnosis rule from the set of rules

12   includes:

13   a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

14   a correlation tag identifying a correlation between one or more symptoms,

15   wherein the one or more symptoms are defined in one or more

16   symptom tags that include one or more pre-defined indicators

17   associated with the one or more symptoms; and

18   generating, from information stored in one or more tags of the one or more RBML

19   documents, one or more sequences of instructions, which instructions, when

20   executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out

21   the steps of:

22   collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms,

23   wherein collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes

24   monitoring the network for one or more network events identified in the

25   symptom-event rule; and

26   detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes

27   applying the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

28   receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second

29   network, separate from the first network; and

30   distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents

31   storing the particular rule.

1   12.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the step of detecting a problem

2   within the network further comprises the steps of:

3   comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated

4   with the one or more symptoms to determine whether a particular symptom exists

5   in the symptom-related data;

6   repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in

7   the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;

8   and

9   only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem

10   identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

1   13.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the RBML document storing the

2   symptom-event rule further includes:

3   a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

4   a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection

5   command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-

6   related data associated with the particular network device.

1   14.   (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein:

2   the step of creating one or more RBML documents further includes creating a RBML

3   document for storing a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective

4   actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and

5   the step of generating instructions includes generating one or more sequences of

6   instructions, which instructions, when executed by the one or more processors,

7   cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of recommending to a user

8   the one or more corrective actions defined in the RBML document storing the

9   problem-correction rule.

1   15.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for rule-based network management, comprising:

2   a rule editor for creating and storing, in one or more Rule-Based Markup Language

3   ("RBML") documents containing one or more tags, a set of rules employed in

4   managing the a first network among a plurality of networks, wherein the set of

5   rules includes:

6   a symptom-event rule that identifies as a symptom a particular event occurring

7   within the network; and

8   a problem-diagnosis rule that defines a problem within the network as a

9   correlation between one or more symptoms;

10   one or more processors;

11   a diagnosis engine including one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when

12   executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry

13   out the steps of:

14   collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms,

15   wherein collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes

16   monitoring the network for one or more network events identified in the

17   symptom-event rule; and

18   detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes

19   applying the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

20   a rule broker configured to receive a request from a user to apply a particular rule in

21   managing a second network, separate from the first network, and to distribute to a

22   device on the second network the one or more RBML documents storing the

23   particular rule.

24   receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second

25   network, separate from the first network; and

26   distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents

27   storing the particular rule.

1   16.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the rule editor is capable of

2   providing to a user means for reviewing the set of rules to identify and resolve a conflict between

3   two or more rules in the set.

1   17.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein:

2   the problem-diagnosis rule defining the correlation between one or more symptoms

3   includes one or more pre-defined indicators associated with the one or more

4   symptoms; and

5   the diagnosis engine instructions for carrying out the step of detecting a problem within

6   the network further include instructions for carrying out the steps of:

7   comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators

8   associated with the one or more symptoms to determine whether a

9   particular symptom exists in the symptom-related data;

10   repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms

11   identified in the problem-diagnosis rule; and

12   only if all correlated symptoms identified in the problem-diagnosis rule exist,

13   determining that the problem defined in the problem-diagnosis rule is

14   detected.

1   18.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the symptom-event rule further

2   includes:

3   information identifying a particular network device; and

4   a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection command, when executed on the

5   particular network device, returns symptom-related data associated with the

6   particular network device.

1   19.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein:

2   the set of rules further includes a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective

3   actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and

4   the diagnosis engine further includes instructions which, when executed by the one or

5   more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of

6   recommending to a user one or more corrective actions defined in the problem-

7   correction rule.

1   20.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 19, wherein the diagnosis engine further

2   includes instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more

3   processors to carry out the step of applying to a network device, without user intervention, one or

4   more corrective actions defined in the problem-correction rule.

1   21.   (Canceled)

1   22.   (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more

2   sequences of instructions for rule-based network management, which instructions, when

3   executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the

4   steps of:

5   defining and storing a set of rules in one or more Rule-Based Markup Language

6   ("RBML") documents, wherein the one or more RBML documents include one or

7   more tags defining one or more rule elements, and wherein the set of rules

8   includes:

9   a symptom-event rule that identifies as a symptom a particular event occurring

10   within the a first network among a plurality of networks; and

11   a problem-diagnosis rule that defines a problem within the network as a

12   correlation between one or more symptoms;

13   collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms, wherein

14   collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes monitoring the network

15   for one or more network events identified in the symptom-event rule; and

16   detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes applying

17   the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

18   receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second network,

19   separate from the first network;

20   distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents storing

21   the particular rule.

1   23.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22,

2   further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors,

3   cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of reviewing the set of rules to

4   identify and resolve a conflict between two or more rules in the set.

1   24.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22,

2   further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors,

3   cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of storing the one or more RBML

4   documents in a rule repository, wherein the rule repository includes one or more

5   directories containing RBML documents.

1   25.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22,

2   wherein a RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule includes:

3   a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

4   a correlation tag identifying the correlation between one or more symptoms, wherein the

5   one or more symptoms are defined in one or more symptom tags that include one

6   or more pre-defined indicators associated with the one or more symptoms.

1   26.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 25,

2   further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors,

3   cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

4   comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated

5   with a particular symptom to determine whether the particular symptom exists in

6   the symptom-related data;

7   repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in

8   the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;

9   and

10   only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem

11   identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

1   27.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22,

2   wherein a RBML document storing the symptom-event rule includes:

3   an event tag identifying the particular event occurring on the network; and

4   a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the particular event.

1   28.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 27,

2   wherein the RBML document storing the symptom-event rule further includes:

3   a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

4   a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection

5   command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-

6   related data associated with the particular network device.

1   29.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 22,

2   wherein:

3   the set of rules further includes a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective

4   actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and

5   the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when executed by

6   the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step

7   of recommending to a user one or more corrective actions defined in a RBML

8   document storing the problem-correction rule.

1   30.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 29,

2   further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors,

3   cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of applying to a network device,

4   without user intervention, one or more corrective actions defined in the problem-

5   correction rule.

1   31.   (Canceled)

1   32.   (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more

2   sequences of instructions for defining a Rule-Based Markup Language ("RBML") to

3   describe a set of rules for managing a first network among a plurality of networks, which

4   instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors

5   to carry out the steps of:

6   creating one or more RBML documents for storing the set of rules, wherein the one or

7   more RBML documents include one or more tags defining one or more rule

8   elements, and wherein:

9   a RBML document storing a symptom-event rule from the set of rules includes:

10   an event tag identifying a particular event occurring on the network; and

11   a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the

12   particular event; and

13   a RBML document storing a problem-diagnosis rule from the set of rules

14   includes:

15   a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

16   a correlation tag identifying a correlation between one or more symptoms,

17   wherein the one or more symptoms are defined in one or more

18   symptom tags that include one or more pre-defined indicators

19   associated with the one or more symptoms; and

20   generating, from information stored in one or more tags of the one or more RBML

21   documents, one or more sequences of instructions, which instructions, when

22   executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out

23   the steps of:

24   collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms,

25   wherein collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes

26   monitoring the network for one or more network events identified in the

27   symptom-event rule; and

28 detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes

29 applying the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

30 receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second

31 network, separate from the first network; and

32 distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents

33 storing the particular rule.

1 33. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,

2 wherein the instructions for detecting a problem within the network further comprise

3 instructions for carrying out the steps of:

4 comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated

5 with the one or more symptoms to determine whether a particular symptom exists

6 in the symptom-related data;

7 repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in

8 the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;

9 and

10 only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem

11 identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

1 34. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,

2 wherein the RBML document storing the symptom-event rule further includes:

3 a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

4 a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection

5 command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-

6 related data associated with the particular network device.

1 35. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,

2 wherein:

3 the instructions for creating one or more RBML documents further comprise instructions

4 for carrying out the step of creating a RBML document for storing a problem-

5 correction rule defining one or more corrective actions capable of correcting the

6 problem within the network; and

7   the instructions for generating one or more sequences of instructions, by using

8   information stored in one or more tags of one or more RBML documents, further

9   comprise instructions for carrying out the step of recommending to a user the one

10   or more corrective actions defined in the RBML document storing the problem-

11   correction rule.